

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 1715

To coordinate the Federal Government's response to communities that are adversely impacted by the closure or significant downsizing of a plant or industry located in the community.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 5, 1998

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To coordinate the Federal Government's response to communities that are adversely impacted by the closure or significant downsizing of a plant or industry located in the community.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Stabilizing Workforce  
5       and Towns Act of 1998”.

6       **SEC. 2. COORDINATED FEDERAL RESPONSE FOR COMMU-**  
7       **NITY ASSISTANCE.**

8       (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF SWAT TEAM RESPONSE.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce,  
2           in consultation with the President’s Economic Ad-  
3           justment Committee, shall ensure that a Stabilizing  
4           Workforce and Towns Team (in this Act referred to  
5           as a “SWAT Team”) is mobilized and that such  
6           team travels to a community in need (as defined in  
7           section 3) not later than 3 days after an application  
8           for assistance is received by that Secretary in ac-  
9           cordance with paragraph (2).

10          (2) APPLICATION.—For purposes of paragraph  
11          (1), the application for assistance shall be submitted  
12          by the Governor of the State in which the commu-  
13          nity that is requesting assistance under this Act is  
14          located and shall contain such information as the  
15          Secretary of Commerce may require in order to de-  
16          termine whether the area is a community in need.

17          (3) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall not  
18          provide a SWAT Team response under this Act un-  
19          less the Secretary determines that the area under  
20          consideration for such response is a community in  
21          need.

22          (b) SWAT TEAM MEMBERSHIP.—

23               (1) IN GENERAL.—A SWAT Team shall be  
24               composed of a representative from each of the fol-  
25               lowing agencies:

1 (A) The Department of Commerce.

2 (B) The Department of Education.

3 (C) The Department of Health and  
4 Human Services.

5 (D) The Department of Housing and  
6 Urban Development.

7 (E) The Department of Justice.

8 (F) The Department of Labor.

9 (G) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

10 (H) The Small Business Administration.

11 The representative of the Department of Commerce  
12 shall be the team leader of the SWAT Team.

13 (2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—In addition to the  
14 representatives described in paragraph (1), a SWAT  
15 Team shall be composed of a representative from  
16 any of the following agencies if the team leader of  
17 the team determines that such representation is ap-  
18 propriate in order to carry out the duties of the  
19 SWAT Team:

20 (A) The Department of Agriculture.

21 (B) The Department of Energy.

22 (C) The Department of the Interior.

23 (D) The Department of Treasury.

24 (E) The Office of Management and  
25 Budget.

1 (F) Any other Federal agency.

2 (c) DUTIES OF SWAT TEAM.—The SWAT Team  
3 shall have the following duties:

4 (1) To establish operations in a public building  
5 in the community in need and maintain such oper-  
6 ations for a minimum of 5 days.

7 (2) To provide to individuals residing in the  
8 community in need information and materials that  
9 describe all relevant Federal assistance programs  
10 available and the process for applying for such as-  
11 sistance. The SWAT Team shall also make available  
12 the applications for such assistance.

13 (3) To provide information to individuals resid-  
14 ing in the community in need regarding additional  
15 resources available to such individuals to address  
16 their economic needs.

17 (4) To designate a member of the SWAT Team  
18 as a liaison to the community in need. Such member  
19 shall be designated before the SWAT Team termi-  
20 nates operations in the community and shall con-  
21 tinue to provide advise to the community regarding  
22 the long-term recovery of the community.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY IN NEED.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act, the term “community  
25 in need” means an area that the Secretary of Commerce

1 determines, using the criteria described in subsection (b),  
 2 is experiencing a sudden and severe dislocation because  
 3 of the closure or significant downsizing of a plant or indus-  
 4 try located in the area.

5 (b) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION OF SUDDEN AND  
 6 SEVERE ECONOMIC DISLOCATION.—The criteria described  
 7 in this subsection are that an area must show actual or  
 8 threatened permanent job losses that exceed the following  
 9 threshold criteria:

10 (1) AREAS LOCATED IN METROPOLITAN STATIS-  
 11 TICAL AREAS.—For an area located in a Metropoli-  
 12 tan Statistical Area, if the unemployment rate of the  
 13 Metropolitan Statistical Area in which the area is lo-  
 14 cated—

15 (A) is greater than the national average,  
 16 the dislocation must be equal to or greater than  
 17 the lesser of—

18 (i) 0.5 percent of the employed popu-  
 19 lation in the area; or

20 (ii) 4,000 direct jobs; or

21 (B) is equal to or less than the national  
 22 average, the dislocation must be equal to or  
 23 greater than the lesser of—

24 (i) 1 percent of the employed popu-  
 25 lation in the area; or

1 (ii) 8,000 direct jobs.

2 (2) AREAS NOT LOCATED IN METROPOLITAN  
3 STATISTICAL AREAS.—For an area that is not lo-  
4 cated in a Metropolitan Statistical Area, if the un-  
5 employment rate of the Labor Market Area in which  
6 the area is located—

7 (A) is greater than the national average,  
8 the dislocation must be equal to or greater than  
9 the lesser of—

10 (i) 2 percent of the employed popu-  
11 lation in the area; or

12 (ii) 500 direct jobs; or

13 (B) is equal to or less than the national  
14 average, the dislocation must be equal to or  
15 greater than the lesser of—

16 (i) 4 percent of the employed popu-  
17 lation in the area; or

18 (ii) 1,000 direct jobs.

19 (3) PERCENT OF JOB LOSS RATIO.—At least 50  
20 percent of the job loss ratio threshold is the result  
21 of the action of a single employer, or at least 80 per-  
22 cent of the job loss threshold occurs in a single  
23 standard industry classification.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the  
3 completion of a SWAT Team response in a community  
4 in need, the SWAT Team shall submit a report to Con-  
5 gress, the community in need’s congressional delegation,  
6 and the President’s Economic Adjustment Committee.

7 (b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection  
8 (a) shall contain a detailed description of the assistance  
9 provided by the SWAT Team, recommendations regarding  
10 assistance to be provided by SWAT Teams in future re-  
11 sponses, information regarding the long-term recovery  
12 plan for the community in need, and any other informa-  
13 tion regarding the provision of Federal assistance to com-  
14 munities in need, including community applications for  
15 Federal assistance, that the team determines to be appro-  
16 priate.

17 (c) REPORT ON FILE.—A copy of the report de-  
18 scribed in subsection (a) shall be maintained on file by  
19 the Secretary of Commerce for use as a resource to assist  
20 similarly impacted communities in the future.

21 (d) CENTRALIZED LOCATION.—The Secretary of  
22 Commerce shall maintain all SWAT Team reports in a  
23 centralized location and shall make such reports available  
24 to the public.

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